

April 24, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

STATUS REPORT ON CHILD HEALTH AND EDUCATION PASSPORT PILOT PROJECT

On February 20, 2001, your Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services in collaboration with the Chief Information Officer, Chief Probation Officer, Directors of Mental Health and Health Services, and the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the design and implementation of Child Health and Education Passport System (CHEPS).
2. Assist the Chief Administrative Officer's Service Integration Branch (SIB) with the preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for development and implementation of CHEPS, which shall be issued within 60 days; and assist SIB in developing the Advanced Planning Document (APD).

In addition, you instructed my office to oversee the development and implementation of CHEPS and to report back to the Board every 60 days regarding its progress. This is the seventh status report on the development and implementation of the Child Health and Education Passport Pilot Project.

Status

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) approved the Child Health and Education Passport Pilot Project Advanced Planning Document (APD) with some modification on March 27, 2002. On April 5, 2002, the Office of the Secretary of the State Health and Human Services Agency approved the APD. The APD was sent for final review and approval to the State's Department of Information Technology (DOIT)

and Department of Finance (DOF), as well as to the Federal Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. This parallel review process is intended to streamline the final approval process.

The approved APD includes moving forward in support of the County's preferred approach to issue an RFP for a vendor to provide a technology service application which mirrors the existing data in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) health and education passport screens; provide for the additional 109 health and education fields identified by the Los Angeles County user group; include interfaces with the Probation Department and Los Angeles County Office of Education's (LACOE) systems; update CWS/CMS through an emulator process; and provide for access by providers and caregivers through the Internet.

Modifications made to the APD by the State included: 1) deleting reference that the Passport would continue to be operational until the State decides to move forward with Statewide deployment of the Passport or implement a replacement system, 2) removing language regarding using the County's existing contract with the CWS/CMS service provider to support the interface needed to upload information from Passport to CWS/CMS, and 3) deleting all references to the current limitations of CWS/CMS; the risks associated with making any enhancements to CWS/CMS; and the drawbacks associated with the option to modify CWS/CMS by enabling direct Internet access to providers and caregivers to add the 109 health and education fields identified by Los Angeles County; and develop needed bi-directional interfaces between CWS/CMS, Probation, and LACOE's systems.

According to CDSS representatives, AB 427 authorizes the Statewide expansion of the Passport upon successful evaluation of the project. They believe the inclusion of AB 427 in the APD highlights the State and County's intention to expand the system Statewide upon successful demonstration of the Passport's benefits. CDSS also indicated that additional funding authorization would need to be secured for operational costs beyond the pilot. Reference to using the County's contract to support the CWS/CMS interface was deleted based on the State's preference to use their own contract.

Deletions related to the limitations of CWS/CMS were made to make the document presentable as a State APD. CDSS is the single State agency authorized to make requests for Federal funding on CWS/CMS projects. As such, they indicated that they cannot present documents that reflect negatively on systems, which they manage, and use the negative comments as the justification for selection of an alternative.

Subsequent to receiving the modification comments from CDSS, my staff was also informed that the State is confirming the funding formula for the Passport Pilot. Efforts are underway to ensure State and Federal revenue for this project is maximized.

Next Steps

The Federal review cycle is typically 60 days from receipt of the APD, however, the 60-day cycle may be delayed or suspended if Federal authorities need to request additional information from the State and/or County.

Los Angeles County will be required to prepare an APD update and submit it for State and Federal review prior to contract award. This step is required to more fully address the architectural, risk, security, provider incentive, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) issues associated with the Passport Pilot Project. Lifecycle costs will need to be presented to be reflective of the actual cost to implement and maintain the Passport. A revised project schedule would also be presented based upon the recommended Contractor's proposal.

Conclusion

My office is encouraged by the submittal of the APD to the Federal government, however, additional challenges may arise in regard to securing approval and implementing the Passport due to other CWS/CMS Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) priorities.

We remain in weekly contact with CDSS, monitoring the ongoing efforts of the State and Federal reviews. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Alisa Drakodaidis at (213) 974-2477.

DEJ: ASD:pg

c: Auditor-Controller
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County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services
Department of Health Services
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
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